



## **First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) Weekly Update to the State Single Points of Contact (SPOCs) – January 20, 2015**

### **FirstNet News**

- We completed the eleventh consultation meeting on January 14 with Colorado. The meeting was notable for having a large number of representatives from state and local public safety agencies; the more than 125 participants included SPOCs from several states.
- We are preparing for the upcoming Federal consultation “kick-off” meeting in Washington, DC on January 21. Representatives from more than 13 federal agencies are slated to attend – including DOD, DHS, DOJ, FCC, and others – as well as PSAC Chairman Harlin McEwen and the Washington, DC SPOC Jack Burbridge. The main objectives for this meeting are to 1) Establish a baseline understanding of FirstNet activities among federal agencies; 2) Formally distribute Initial Preparation Package checklists to federal agencies; and 3) Initiate outreach engagement cycles between FirstNet and federal agencies.
- This week FirstNet will be at the Kansas Statewide Broadband Initiative Conference. FirstNet will also speak on a FirstNet focused webinar on January 22, coordinated by the International City/County Management Association (ICMA), to local government managers and their staffs.
- Upcoming initial consultation meetings are: Kentucky (1/28), Texas (2/11-2/12), Delaware (2/19), Wyoming (2/25), Arkansas (3/4), Massachusetts (3/12), Nebraska (3/18-3/19), Washington, DC (3/26), South Dakota (4/1), North Carolina (4/23) and South Carolina (4/29).
- To date, FirstNet has received completed state consultation checklists from 44 states and territories: Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Guam, Hawaii, New Hampshire, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, U.S. Virgin Islands, Utah, Vermont, Washington, Washington DC, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming.
- The PSCR conference will be held from June 3-5 at the Omni Hotel in San Diego, following the June 1 PSAC meeting and the June 2-3 FirstNet committee and board meetings. Visit the [PSCR website](#) for more information.

- As discussed on the January 8th webinar, FirstNet sent out letters to 36 Federal agencies on January 16, 2015, inviting them to be Cooperating Agencies on the FirstNet Programmatic Environmental Impact Statements (PEISs). Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), FirstNet is required to reach out to agencies that may have an interest in our proposed action for reasons of either jurisdiction or expertise; in this case the proposed action is the design, construction, and deployment of the nationwide public safety broadband network. This letter was sent to agency NEPA Coordinators or appropriate environmental staff. We have included a template letter for your reference, as well as a list of the agencies that were contacted.

## **From the States and PSAC Organizations**

- The January SPOC calls begin this week, with Regions 4 and 6-8 on 1/21; Region 1-2 and 10 on 1/22; Region 3 on 1/23; and Regions 5 and 9 on 1/26.
- Last week, Sue Swenson and Jeff Johnson presented to the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) board. This week includes presentations to the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) and the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA).
- Kristi Wilde joined the Oregon Chapter of APCO/NENA for their quarterly meetings on the Oregon coast. Christy Williams, NENA National President, and others discussed the practical side of updating technology to Next Generation 9-1-1. Kristi spoke at the meeting about the current status of FirstNet planning, and along with Christy, encouraged PSAP managers to stay tuned in and participate in the state consultation/planning process.

## **Media Watch**

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### *Traditional Media*

Similar to last week, most of the media coverage focused on state and local consultation and planning for FirstNet. The Colorado consultation meeting was covered by a reporter from the *Mission Critical Radio Resources* trade publication, and she plans to file at least two stories about the event. Two local TV stations in Iowa ran stories about the state's outreach and planning activities around the NPSBN.

Additionally, the President's broadband announcement received considerable attention from both the mainstream and telecommunications trade press. While the President's broadband initiatives do not provide for any public safety-specific activities, the

Administration did make a strong commitment to building broadband capacity in communities in all parts of the nation, especially with regard to rural communities. Top stories are listed below:

### **Communications Daily (Summary): Texas Seeks Stakeholder Input Ahead of FirstNet**

The Texas Statewide Communications Interoperability Coordinator's office sent a survey to stakeholders Tuesday to collect input on FirstNet in preparation for its first consultation meeting with FirstNet officials, set for Feb. 11-12. "The goal of the initial consultation is to provide FirstNet with a better understanding of the Texas public safety data communications landscape and challenges," said Deputy Statewide Interoperability Coordinator Karla Jurrens in an email to stakeholders. Stakeholders who fill out the survey will also be able to submit a question for FirstNet officials to answer during the consultation meeting, Jurrens said.

### **KCRG-TV - IA: Linn County Emergency Personnel Consider Exclusive Broadband Network**

<http://www.kcrg.com/subject/news/linn-county-emergency-personnel-consider-exclusive-broadband-network-20150113>

Firefighters, police officers, and other public service officials attended a presentation on the First Alert Network Authority (FirstNet) in Linn County on Tuesday. As part of a bill signed into law by Congress in 2012, FirstNet is in the process of creating infrastructure for a nationwide wireless broadband network to be used exclusively by public safety officials. The presentation was led by Shawn Wagner, outreach specialist for the Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board (ISICSB), and its chairman, Thomas Lampe.

### **KGAN-TV - IA: FirstNet: Emergency Network**

<http://www.cbs2iowa.com/news/features/top-stories/stories/firstnet-emergency-network-33227.shtml>

Not being able to get a cell signal in a normal situation is annoying, but in an emergency, it can mean the difference between life and death. It's called FirstNet and won't be available for another two years. First responders across the country and here in Iowa, will be able to dial in via an app on their phone when other lines are busy during an emergency. During the Boston Marathon bombing, many were not able to make a call to a loved one or 9-1-1. "We need a network that's reliable, that we won't have problems getting on," Sgt. Thomas Lampe said, Department of Public Safety. Sgt. Lampe said FirstNet is the next step to solve that issue. Related Link: [http://youtu.be/OKA1ydH\\_8Bg](http://youtu.be/OKA1ydH_8Bg)

### **TR Daily (Summary): N.M. OFFICIAL URGES FirstNet to Provide Flexibility on Access to Network**

The First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) should provide states and localities flexibility to allow non-traditional first responders such as utilities access to the network during emergencies, and should also give them flexibility regarding priority access, New Mexico Chief Information Officer Darryl Ackley said today. During a webinar this afternoon sponsored by the Keller and Heckman LLP law firm, Mr. Ackley also noted that FirstNet is under considerable pressure to act quickly in planning and building a nationwide public safety network. But he said officials must act in a balanced fashion to ensure there is transparency and that money is spent wisely. "There's really a lot of pressure to operate very quickly, and yet I think that the folks there recognize that, you know, there's a lot of diligence that needs to take place, and when you're talking about dealing with all the states and all the various entities therein, that's not necessarily something you can do very quickly," he added. Mr. Ackley also said that critical infrastructure industry entities such as utilities can partner in the deployment of the network, including in rural areas, and he urged CII parties to learn the issues related to FirstNet and meet the players, including single points of contact (SPOC). Mr. Ackley is the SPOC for New Mexico. He also said that FirstNet is "trying to have as open a door as possible."

### *Social Media*

Social media discussions about FirstNet focused mostly on outreach and consultation in the states and territories. In addition, the updated "FirstNet by the Number" infographic received significant and positive attention on social media. The FirstNet Twitter account now has more than 1,450 followers, and the LinkedIn account has grown to more than 460 followers. We posted a number of blogs this past week detailing our outreach and consultation with the states: <http://www.firstnet.gov/newsroom/blog>.